

## NAVOCEANO News



Coast Guardsmen and the survey team load the USCGC Venturous RHIB and take some time to capture the moment.

Hurricane Jeanne's destruction in September 2004.

The *Venturous* departed Florida on 1 Jan. with the equipment and the survey team on board.

While in transit, the team outfitted the Coast Guard's 7-meter rigid hull inflatable boat (RHIB) with survey equipment and ensured the power requirements needed to run the equip-

ment were addressed.

They used side-scan sonar, GPS and a single-beam echosounder to successfully create the field charts they were requested to provide within seven days.

Different from other charts, field charts are produced and distributed for special circumstances. In this case, it was the drastic changes in the Haitian coastline because of the 2004 hurricanes. The charts identified obstructions in and around the channel and approaches to Gonaïves.

In early February, due to the expertise of the NAVOCEANO team and the cooperation of the *Venturous* crew, the USS SAIPAN successfully unloaded its supplies, and the Seabees disembarked to begin rebuilding schools, drilling wells and providing other much needed assistance.

**Haiti**, continued from page 1.

relief effort.

The channel needed to be surveyed before U.S. Navy relief ships such as USS SAIPAN could proceed to unload 1,200 tons of supplies, equipment and 50 Seabees on land.

Securing the safety of navigation was the duty of NAVOCEANO's Ian Fergusson, Skip Derry, Wally Stout and LCDR Chris Sterbis.

On 30 Dec., the group packed their necessary survey equipment and drove to St. Petersburg, Fla., to meet *Venturous*, a U.S. Coast Guard cutter.

The purpose of their deployment was to sweep the channel area of the Gulf of Gonaïves, Haiti.

The 2004 hurricane season was very active, and many changes resulted from

## Education Outreach

## Ocean Science Mentoring Program Concludes Sixth Successful Year

**N**ine Coahoma Community College students were recently awarded \$25,000 in scholarships by the Office of Naval Research for their participation in NAVOCEANO's sixth annual Ocean Science Mentoring Program.

The six-month program is designed to interest the Clarksdale, Miss., students in math and science careers by pairing students with NAVOCEANO professionals who act as mentors.

The pair work together on a math- or science-based project and present their findings to an assembly of teachers, family and peers.

Student mentors included Glen Boyer, Alvin Cajigas, Stanley Harvey, Michael Jeffries, Chandler Johnson, Rebecca Lovingood, Gabrielle Malley, Calvin Martin, Andrea Meranto, Giovanni Morris, Horace Spencer, Kathryn Townsend (program manager) and BMC (SW/SCW) Cecil Watt.

Also as part of the program, mentors visit Delta-area high schools to encourage students to attend college and major in math and science.

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Maximizing America's Sea Power

April/May 2005

## DOD Submits Proposed NSPS Regulations

By Assistant Secretary of Defense, Public Affairs

**T**he Department of Defense (DOD) and Office of Personnel Management (OPM) submitted proposed regulations for the National Security Personnel System (NSPS).

The proposal offers rules and processes for a new human resources system for DOD civilian employees regarding pay and classification, performance management, hiring, workforce shaping, disciplinary matters, appeals procedures and labor-management relations.

NSPS was signed into law in November 2003. For the past year, DOD and OPM officials have been working to design a modern, performance-based civilian personnel system.

NSPS will improve the way DOD See **NSPS**, page 7.

## NAVOCEANO Surveyors Assist New Horizons Humanitarian Mission in Haiti



Pictured left to right on the USCGC Venturous RHIB off the Haitian coast are Ian Fergusson, Wally Stout, LCDR Chris Sterbis, Skip Derry and two Coast Guardsmen.

**I**n December 2004, shortly before a tsunami hit Southeast Asia, NAVOCEANO was tasked to conduct a beach clearance survey in Haiti.

The survey was part of a humanitarian and civic assistance mission in South America and the Caribbean sponsored by the U.S. Southern Command called New

Horizons.

Similar to NAVOCEANO personnel working in Southeast Asia, the group was interested in identifying hazards to navigation in the Gulf of Gonaïves area and ensuring navigation clearance for the

See **Haiti**, page 12.

## New Navy Leadership

### ADM Nathman Named CFFC

**A**DM John B. Nathman relieved ADM William J. Fallon as Commander, Fleet Forces Command in a change of command ceremony aboard aircraft carrier USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT in February.

ADM Fallon left the post to become Commander, U.S. Pacific Command in Honolulu.

A native of San Antonio, Nathman graduated with distinction from the United States Naval Academy in 1970 and qualified as a naval aviator, receiving the Naval Training Command's Outstanding Pilot Graduate Award while also completing a master's degree in Aerospace Engineering in 1972.



ADM John B. Nathman

See **CFFC**, page 5.

### ADM Mullen To Succeed Clark

**A**DM Michael Mullen was nominated by President Bush to become the U.S. Navy's 28th Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) in March.

ADM Vern Clark, CNO since 2000, announced in February he plans to retire this summer. Clark, the second-longest serving CNO in the Navy's history, said he was proud to serve these last five years, and he is confident in Mullen's abilities.

"ADM Mullen is a bold and visionary leader who has served his nation brilliantly for over three decades. Our Navy is truly fortunate to have him assume the watch," said Clark.

Born in Los Angeles, Mullen has a



See **CNO**, page 9. ADM Michael G. Mullen

### Naval Oceanographic Office Ocean Frontier

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Lanee Cooksey, Managing Editor  
Shannon Breland, Editor



From the Commanding Officer

Spring is Upon Us

Greetings Everyone! Spring is upon us, and we're starting to put those winter doldrums behind us. We've made it through a compressed Mardi Gras season and Easter. We've made many significant accomplishments since my last article. This month, I would like to discuss some of those accomplishments, and what they might mean to us in the future.

This first big accomplishment was the tremendous effort put forth by the entire command for the Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Relief effort after the devastating tsunami in the eastern Indian Ocean. Within a week of the disaster, an eight-person team of both civilian and military headed to Singapore and eventually to the USS BENFOLD to conduct surveys of the harbors, approaches and channels. They outfitted the ship's RHIBs to operate all their equipment. Our efforts helped clear the waterways for ships to deliver aid to the thousands of victims. CDR Giampaolo was sent to Combined Support Force 536 to be the survey liaison officer for the staff.

Also, hats off to our Far East Asia representative Mr. Tom Cuff who did a wonderful job of working the diplomatic clearance issues with Indonesia and handling the logistics for all the personnel and equipment sent to the area. N2 personnel were able to annotate commercial satellite imagery of the area to identify

the significant changes in the coastlines of Indonesia. N3 spun up high-resolution models for accurate current predictions. Additionally, we deployed the USNS MCDONNELL to the area to conduct more detailed surveys along the west coast of the country. It truly was an "All Hands" effort. We hope these actions have brought our countries closer together and are a first step toward cooperative surveys in the future.

The next big event was the investigative response after the grounding of USS SAN FRANCISCO. It turns out the submarine hit an uncharted seamount 350 miles southwest of Guam. We have never conducted a bathymetric survey in the area, nor have we had a requirement to do so. N4 folks, along with a host of others, compiled a comprehensive package of information for RDML McGee to brief ADM Fallon, Commander, Fleet Forces Command, one week after the incident. ADM Fallon was so impressed, he had RDML McGee brief the CNO less than a week later. It was eye-opening to senior Navy leadership to learn how little of the world's oceans have had detailed surveys. RDML McGee is demonstrating the importance of our survey fleet to senior leaders in hopes of getting the oceanography program re-baselined (to get us back where we were financially five years ago).

Our CHARTS aircraft with its LIDAR laser system completed two detailed surveys over the last two months with very impressive results. The aircraft, along with three members of the Fleet Survey Team, completed a significant survey along the eastern coast of Africa in about one-fifth the time it would have taken one of our survey ships. They also completed a survey off the coast of Israel in 6 hours with the data being sent back to NAVOCEANO, processed, and turned into a field chart, all within 48 hours. The effort was a tremendous accomplishment indeed. We really stressed the system in processing the data that quickly, and our N4 personnel rose to meet the challenge. RDML McGee was so taken

with the results, he has asked Bob Pope to brief the new Commander, Fleet Forces Command, ADM Nathman.

We've also had our share of high level visits over the last couple of months. ADM Fallon visited the USNS PATHFINDER when it was in Norfolk, Va., and was very impressed with all aspects of the ship. It was important for us to get him out to the ship and understand some of her capabilities since he has just taken over as Commander, Pacific Command, where a good portion of our ships are operating. We also had a visit from Oceanographer of the Navy RADM Tomaszewski in February. While here, he was given a detailed update on the navigation aspect of our business, relevant to his duties as Navigator of the Navy. He will return in May for detailed briefs on the rest of our programs.

Wow, and this all happened in the first two months of the year. I would like to mention a couple of changes that will affect some here at NAVOCEANO. The first is we have begun an A-76 study. This will be a two-year effort for big Navy to determine if an outside contractor can do certain portions of our business more efficiently than we can. They will look at N1, N62 and all the administrative personnel throughout the office. Ninety percent of the studies conducted to date have been won by the governmental organization, but we won't be able to let our guard down. We have to demonstrate how good we really are and show that we are big-time winners. CDR Mike Hallal has the lead for this effort and will be providing detailed updates as we progress.

The next big change is going to a new



CAPT Jeffrey Best  
Commanding Officer

See **Best**, page 7.

Welcome Aboard

- Denis Aidoo
- Jamie Bonisteel
- Justin Carreno
- Michael Cerf
- Michael Foster
- LTIJG Hornick
- Lene Hosey
- Roger Meredith
- Michael Michalski
- Stefan Miller
- David Spector
- David Stremler
- Don Tiep
- Glen Wadsworth

From the Commanding Officer

Civilian Length of Service  
This listing contains awards dated through April 2005.

- 10 Years  
Ralph Bingham
- 15 Years  
Teresa Bennett  
Angela Broom  
Sandy Fullwood Johnson  
Kim Jones  
Tammy Rudesill  
Janice Saunders

- 20 Years  
Ronald Betsch  
Gabrielle Malley  
Janet Neidermeier

- 25 Years  
Karen Allain  
Katherine Hartfield  
Charles Horton

- 30 Years  
Houston Costolo  
John Nigro  
Stephen Wilson

Navy and Marine Corps  
Achievement Medal  
EN2 Jason Summerville

Navy and Marine Corps  
Commendation Medal  
QM1 Christopher Birl  
AGC John F. Brotherman  
AGC Stephen A. Fouts

Military Outstanding  
Volunteer Service Medal  
AGC Stephen A. Fouts

Air Force Achievement  
Medal  
LT Jason Gipson  
AGC Jason Thompson

Commanding Officer's  
Letter of Appreciation  
Tracy Patman  
Suzy Dyle

Navy Superior Civilian  
Service Award  
Dr. J. Edward Johnson

UD04/TASWEX  
On the Spot  
Greg Bodet  
Cindy Bricker  
Robert Delgado  
Jerry Gathof  
Devin Goodwin  
Catherine Griffon  
Molly Haynes  
Christine Jarrett  
Craig Kelly  
William McQueary  
Debbie Poffenberger  
Margaret South  
Wendy Walker-Wilz

Military UD04/TASWEX  
AG1 Cecil Baldwin  
ENS Tina Billings  
LT Timothy Campo  
LT Santiago Carrizosa  
AG1 James Cummings  
CDR Timothy Gallaudet  
AGC James Hatch  
AG1 Patricia Kelly  
LT Deborah Mabey  
AG1 Carl McLeod  
AG1 Tori Moffitt  
AG2 Joseph Parisi  
LT Scott Parker  
LCDR Rachel Spollen  
AG1 William Tewelow  
ENS David Watson  
AGC Robert Williamson  
AG1 Travis Younce

Flag Letter of  
Commendation  
William Armour  
Jim Bassich (AIT)  
David Bates  
Marc Beddoe  
Tom Best  
Jerry Bickham  
Jerry Bird  
Jennifer Bivens  
John Blaha  
Martin Booda

Marc Bourgeois  
James Braud  
Danny Braun  
Michael Brooking  
Angie Broom  
Christopher Brown  
Craig Brown  
Danielle Bryant  
Frank Bub  
William Byars  
Manole Calamari (AIT)  
Annette Campbell  
John Campbell  
Dr. Michael Carnes  
Connie Carpenter  
Melody Clifford  
Robert Clifton (ADC)  
Craig Cobb  
Mona Collins  
Jerry Core  
Brandon Craft (ADC)  
Kenneth Cranford  
Dr. Scott Cross  
Shannon Curtis  
Chris DeHaan  
Michael Eckhoff  
Kelly Enriquez  
Rafal Filipczyk  
Brady Furr (ADC)  
Michael Gilligan  
Bruce Gomes  
Lewis Gray  
Sharon Greer  
Kenneth Grembowicz  
Steve Haeger  
Steven Harrison  
Charles Hartfield  
David Hasenkampf  
Honore Hazeur  
Karen Headley  
Wesley Hillstrom  
Vern Horsley  
Charles Horton  
Clay Hull  
Danny Illich  
Eileen Jones  
Larry Johnson  
Robert King  
Charles Kordahi  
Dennis Krynen  
Mike Kuzminski  
Ryan Lane  
Tuyen Le

Pierre Leaks  
Robert Lorens  
Bianca Lott  
Allen Lowrie  
Kim Maddox  
Paul Marin  
Ronnie Marin  
Jane Marshall  
Kenneth Matulewski  
Bruce McKenzie  
Michelle Mehaffey  
Christine Mire  
Deanna Mitchell  
Andy Monks  
Craig Moore (AIT)  
Sampson Naquin  
Melissa Odom  
Kieran O'Driscoll  
Walt Osterman  
Don Parker  
Karen Patterson  
Andrew Pearson  
Marc Pinsel  
Marc Remy  
Lane Reynolds  
Kyle Rushing  
Steve Schmaltz (AIT)  
Sylvia Seal (LMSO)  
Karrie Shants  
Jon Sheptis  
Don Shiel  
Charleston Simms  
Lisa Smith  
Mark Snyder  
Pam Stenum  
Eric Stock  
Raymond Szymankiewicz  
Michael Toner  
Amanda Tumminello  
Janak Varma  
Glenn Villamarette  
Hoan Vu  
Leila Walker  
Pamela Ware  
Stephen Warner  
Gary Watson  
Ernest Wiley  
Ricky Williamson  
Keith Willis  
Patrick Wilz (PSI)  
Billy Wood  
Kelly Wood



## Black History Month

*Dr. Charles Williams, vice chancellor of Academic Affairs at Southern University at New Orleans, spoke to a group of about 30 people in honor of Black History Month at NAVOCEANO in February.*

*Below, Executive Officer CAPT Andy Brown (center) and Sam Tart thank Dr. Williams (far left) for his speech on the Niagra Movement, the precursor to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.*



## JROTC Visit

*AG1 Travis Younce (pictured), Al Molnar, LT Debbie Mabey and CAPT Jeff Best spoke to a group of 40 Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) students from Northshore High School, in Slidell, La., at the StenniSphere auditorium in February.*

*The group visited to learn more about enlisted, officer and civilian careers at NAVOCEANO.*



## Hurricane Bowl

*Students from Niceville, Fla., and Long Beach, Miss., were among more than 15 teams that competed in the regional ocean sciences bowl, also known as the Hurricane Bowl, in Biloxi, Miss., in February. Several NAVOCEANO employees, including Jay Wallmark and Don Parker (below) served as Bowl officials. Winners were awarded prizes and the chance to compete for major scholarships and research opportunities at the National Bowl in Biloxi in April.*



## Rotary Club

*Fleet Survey Team (FST) member LCDR Todd Barnhill (standing); CDR Vincent Giampaolo, commanding officer of the FST (right); and NAVOCEANO's Public Affairs Officer Lanee Cooksey (not pictured) recently spoke at the Stennis Space Center's Rotary Club meeting. Their joint presentation highlighted the Command's participation in the tsunami humanitarian relief efforts.*



## Department Highlight

### N1: Helping You Support the Warfighter

The Logistics and Management Services Department (N1) plays an integral role in helping NAVOCEANO achieve its mission of maximizing America's Sea Power by providing support services to all elements of the Command.

NAVOCEANO relies on the 100 employees of N1 for the upkeep of buildings and grounds, benefits information, contracting, public affairs support, information security and transportation.

Publications and Graphics offers a variety of services including the reproduction of manuals, editing for technical reports and papers, framing and engraving, passport photos, audiovisual equipment, mounting of plots and charts and image correction, just to name a few.

The Maury Library, with more than 400,000 volumes, is considered the largest oceanographic library in the world. It also offers free interlibrary loan service. And did you know that bor-

rowed nautical charts need not be returned?

In addition to offering a variety of onsite and local training, Career Training offers instruction aboard three HSLs at Boat Operations in Gulfport. The boats are also available for equipment testing and routine maintenance. N1 also processes all paperwork, finds sponsors and trains the international students participating in NAVOCEANO's international hydrographic education programs.

Facilities, Safety and Environment reimburses government personnel needing steel-toe shoes (shipriders, engineering equipment operators and others) up to \$125 per year. Safety glasses are available in the branch's office for those who work in eye-hazard areas. Safety specialists are also on hand to survey your workspace and make ergonomic recommendations.

In addition to overseeing access to NAVOCEANO's secure areas and pro-

viding security clearances, Security also provides antiterrorism briefs to every shiprider at NAVOCEANO, as well as for employees traveling for pleasure.

See **N1**, page 5.

- The Management and Logistics Services Department includes:**
- Career Training and Boat Operations
  - Contracts Branch
  - DPAS Inventory/Technical Mailroom\*
  - Facilities, Safety and Environment
  - Publications, Graphics, Library and Survey Archives
  - Human Resources
  - Mailroom\*
  - Public Affairs
  - Warehouse/Distribution
  - Security
  - ServMart\*
  - Supply
  - Transportation

*\*Contractors overseen by N1.*

## Employee Spotlight

### "I like the people. I like what we do in support of the warfighter."

"I would not have had the opportunity to advance to where I am now without NAVOCEANO's Upward Mobility Program," said Marjorie "Margie" Lamb of N1's Contracting and Logistics Services Division (N11).

A native of New Orleans, La., Margie began working at NAVOCEANO in 1980 as a clerk typist in the NAVOCEANO library.

Through the Upward Mobility Program at NAVOCEANO, employees who had the potential and eagerness to learn but who did not possess minimum requirements for a position were trained for a specific career field by the office.

Lamb entered the Upward Mobility Program in 1988 training for the position of Supply Clerk. She is now a Supply Systems Analyst who also serves as a member of the Quality Improvement Visit (QIV) Team, responsible for logistics.

The team visits NAVOCEANO ships

while they are in port to ensure established guidelines and processes are followed, an integral part of the NAVOCEANO Strategic Plan. Lamb is responsible for material requisitioning, storerooms, barcoded equipment and shipping and receiving processes while onboard.

Lamb enjoys getting away from her desk and interacting with shipriders and others, whether in-house or on travel.

"I like the people," said Lamb. "I like what we do in support of the warfighter. We are their lifeline. Until you see them out there, you don't realize how much they depend on people back here to keep them going."

When she is at the office, she oversees logistics processes, as well as systems and database administration.

Margie is never afraid to tackle a new task and does so with a smile. Her most enjoyable project while working for NAVOCEANO was working on the

development of an inventory management and requisitioning system with the Information Systems Division.

Right now, she is diligently working on Navy/Marine Corps Intranet issues within N1 in preparation of the department's transition to the initiative.

When she's not busy at NAVOCEANO, she is an avid gardener and enjoys being outside bicycling and walking.

Lamb lives in Pearlinton with her husband, Shannon. They have one daughter Angelle, a student employee at NAVOCEANO.



*N1's Marjorie Lamb*



## NAVOCEANO News

# Wind Conversion: The Mission Planning Tool of the Warfighter

By Peter J. Washburn, Systems Integration Division (N64)

Since its inception, the Geophysics Fleet Mission Program Library (GF MPL) has been the principal software suite for Fleet on-scene environmental predictions.

Originally hosted on mini-computers and later PC's, GF MPL consisted of meteorological, electromagnetic, electro-optical, oceanographic, acoustic and hazard-avoidance software applications. Its purpose was to quickly determine the environmental effects on Fleet sensors, platforms and weapons systems. GF MPL is today a tactical decision aid for the warfighter.

Upon connecting with the Web-based GF MPL on a secure SIPRNET workstation, the user is presented with a Web-based user interface. Individual applications are accessed through a menu structure of titled tabs and hierarchical hyperlinks.

GF MPL Web applications make thorough use of radio buttons, check boxes and pull-down menus to quickly enter data, make configurations and generate desired outputs. An important feature is the use of Scalable Vector Graphics (SVG), which provide interactive click-and-drag and zoom-in/out capability.

Nine software modules currently comprise GF MPL Web.

Map Utility (MAP) is the geographic background and options that first appear to the GF MPL Web user when the connection is made. MAP seamlessly integrates with GF MPL Web applications in providing latitude/longitude coordinates and a reference on which output data may be plotted or displayed. The user may pan across the globe using an array of eight direction keys or choose to interactively zoom in or zoom out of Map display. Entering latitude/longitude coordinates centers the geographic display accordingly.

Solar/Lunar Almanac Predictions (SLAP) generates daily/monthly solar/lunar illumination, daily rise/set/transit times and hourly ephemeris data, as well as a Light-Level Planning Calendar (LLPC). GF MPL Web provides output graphs for Solar Daily Illumination (SDI); Lunar Daily Illumination (LDI), Solar Elevation Azimuth Angles (SEAA) and Lunar Elevation Azimuth Angles (LEAA); and a location library in which to save inputs and predictions. A log-in is required to access the configuration options.

Tidal Predictions (TIDES) calculates a time series of daily/hourly tidal heights for specific tidal stations across the world. Latitude/longitude data are accepted as a mouse click in Map display. TIDES output may be selected from stations positioned on the map display with reference and secondary stations display options seen in MAP.

TIDES and SLAP applications interact to generate the Astronomical Planning Data, a presentation of sun/moon rise/set times and lunar percent illuminations, with a graphical depiction of hourly tide levels superimposed on a day/night/twilight chronological display.

Surf Predictions (SURF) computes Wave Height, Percent Breaking Waves and the Modified Surf Index (MSI) for sea and swell waves that move ashore. A graphic display is computed from the entered nearshore depth profiles. SURF provides a table of MSI limits for various landing craft used in amphibious warfare. MSI Limits are color-coded with the familiar Go/No-Go (Green/Yellow/Red) criteria, the colors being determined by the computed MSI.

See **Wind**, page 9.

**TSP**, continued from page 5.

are not accepted by the local DON Human Resources Service Center and will be returned unprocessed.

TSP funds allocation can be done at any time. You can allocate any whole percentage of future payroll contributions to any of the five investment funds by making a contribution allocation or redistribute existing account balances among the five investment funds by making an interfund transfer. To make these transactions, visit [www.tsp.gov](http://www.tsp.gov); call the TSP Thriftline at (504) 255-8777; or complete an original TSP-50, Investment Allocation and mail it to the TSP record keeper at the address on the form. TSP-50 forms are available at NAVOCEANO Human Resources.

Visit [www.tsp.gov](http://www.tsp.gov) for a "Summary of Thrift Savings Plan for Federal Employees" booklet; calculators for projecting account balances, estimating loan payments and annuity benefits and maxi-

**Wind**, continued from page 4.

SURF also generates a Surf Observations (SUROBS) message output useable for Fleet transmissions. Surf observation data may be used optionally as SURF input data.

The Wind Conversion application is designed to provide three-way conversion of True Wind, Measured (Relative or Apparent) Wind and Desired Ship's Heading/Speed. When two of the three aforementioned data sets are entered, the remaining data set is computed.

Computation may be done by direct data entry or by "clicking and dragging" the vertices of the wind triangle in the electronic maneuvering board. Depending on the magnitude of winds and speeds, the maneuvering board can be set to five different scales for size accommodation of the vector graphic. The user may also toggle the maneuvering board grid on and off.

Temperature Utility (Temp Util) is an application designed to compute the Wind Chill Temperature (WCT), Heat Stress Index (HSI) and Wet-Bulb Global Temperature (WBGT), given the following inputs: Ambient Temperature (T), Wind Speed (for WCT), Pressure (for

## Navy News

# War On Terrorism Service Medal Awarded to Naval MILPERS

The White House recently approved an executive order for the global war on terrorism service medal to be issued to Naval personnel who either directly, or indirectly, supported designated operations.

Congratulations to military personnel of NAVOCEANO who were recently authorized to wear the medal.

mizing contributions; return rates and share prices and access to your TSP account.

NAVOCEANO's TSP contact can be reached at 688-5511.

**CNO**, continued from page 1.

bachelor's degree in Naval Science from the U.S. Naval Academy and a master's degree in Operations Research from the Naval Postgraduate School. He is also a 1991 graduate of the Harvard Business School Advanced Management Program.

Mullen most recently served as commander of NATO's Joint Force Command Naples and Commander of U.S. Naval Forces Europe since 2004.

"ADM Mike Mullen is a highly professional and effective leader who has served the Navy and our nation well throughout his Naval career," said Secretary of the Navy Gordon England. "We worked together when he was Vice Chief of Naval Operations, and I look forward to working with him again in making our Navy strong and ready to meet future challenges."

Clark has not announced his post-retirement plans.

## New Leadership

# New Titles, Positions

**Matt Barron** has been named executive assistant (00EA) to Commanding Officer CAPT Jeff Best.

**CDR Vincent Giampaolo** is now department director of Survey Operations (NS) and commanding officer of the Fleet Survey Team.

**Dr. John Harding** has returned to the office of Chief Scientist (OTT) after serving as acting technical director.

**LCDR Chris Sterbis** is now executive officer of the Fleet Survey Team Division.

## NAVOCEANO News

# QM1 Christopher Birl Named NAVOCEANO Sailor of the Year

NAVOCEANO named Quartermaster 1st Class (SW/AW) Christopher D. Birl Sailor of the Year in February.

Birl was selected for meritorious achievement while serving as NAVOCEANO's leading petty officer of the Fleet Survey Team for 2004.

Birl's list of accomplishments includes graduating from the International Hydrography Management and Engineering Program, thus becoming the first petty officer in the U.S. Navy to earn a Category "B" Hydrography Certificate.

"My time here has turned out to be better than one could have ever expected.

Hopefully, being the first to earn this certification will open up the field of hydrography to all Quartermasters in the future," said Birl. "I'd like to thank my chain of command here at NAVOCEANO for giving me the opportunity to excel and for their support for my selection as Sailor of the Year."



QM1(SW/AW)  
Christopher Birl



## All Hands

**O**n 10 February, CAPT Jeffrey Best held an All Hands in front of Building 1002 to discuss organizational changes and to hand out awards to employees that supported UD04/TASWEX and Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) efforts. NAVOCEANO received the Gold Award for per capita donations to the CFC fund drive.



CAPT Jeff Best presents Mel Wagstaff, USW Environmental Analysis Support Branch (N532), with the Meritorious Civilian Service award for support during UD04/TASWEX.



CAPT Best presents Matt Barron, executive assistant (00A), with the Meritorious Civilian Service award for support during UD04/TASWEX.



CAPT Jeff Best presents awards to CFC Stennis-wide coordinator Sheree Jones and NAVOCEANO coordinator Tiffany Cassidy for their support during CFC.



CAPT Jeff Best presents awards to CFC keyworkers and loaned executives Shirley Ellis, Connie Carpenter, Frank Lovato, Mike Diring, Bette Johnson, Sandy Carnley, Dana Burke, Frank Bub and Mayra Santiago. Not pictured: Josh Baker, Ron Coursey, Judith Holder, Tammy Rudesill and Lolita Slack.

## A Note From the Editor

Those of you who receive your copy of the NAVOCEANO Ocean Frontier by mail may have noticed you received two copies of the February/March edition.

Due to mail merging difficulties encountered by the printer, the initial copy was improperly addressed to many of you.

We apologize for any inconvenience. The printer assures us the problem has been corrected.

## Employee Excellence

### Cagle Receives CCPMD Pioneer Award

**N**AVOCEANO's Richard "Rick" Cagle of Funds Administration (OCA) was recently recognized at the 2005 Agency Program Coordinator Conference by receiving the Consolidated Card Program Management Division Pioneer Award.

Cagle received the award for maintaining a low delinquency rate (0.34%) for the NAVOCEANO government travel charge card program. (The Navy's

goal is 4%.)

As the NAVOCEANO travel card program coordinator, Cagle proficiently manages 600 accounts and patiently trains cardholders.

He recently pioneered an initiative to curb potential misuse by reissuing card sleeves to all cardholders to prevent anyone from "accidentally" using their government card while not on official travel. Congratulations, Rick.

CFFC, continued from page 1.

ADM Nathman has served in a variety of sea, shore and joint assignments and flown over 40 different types of aircraft during his distinguished career.

Highlights of his achievements and positions include serving at Navy Fighter Weapons School (TOPGUN), where he was responsible for the advanced tactical training of naval aviators, serving on the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations, commanding Naval Air Forces, U.S. Pacific Fleet and most recently serving as Vice Chief of Naval Operations.

N1, continued from page 3.

Human Resources oversees personnel records and administers information on benefits programs. The office also has a tabletop NAVOCEANO exhibit that can be checked out for use in employee speaking engagements.

Public Affairs interacts with national and local media, coordinates logistics and provides photography for Command events, produces the newsletter and administers the PEP program and Speakers Bureau. Public Affairs has VIP packets, handouts, stickers and book-marks for community and school events available for employees.

Supply provides packing and shipping services for destinations all over the world and can have supplies safely delivered in a matter of days.

If you need another chair or extra desk, you can call the NAVOCEANO Warehouse/Distribution Branch to see if they have one available for reissue in storage. Transportation manages the NAVOCEANO GSA fleet and provides government vehicles for official travel.

The Contracts Branch assists supervisors with reviewing contracts for codes, verifying the legalities of work statements and placing bids for contracts. DPAS Inventory/Technical Branch keeps an inventory of all barcoded equipment and loans equipment to external agencies.

All of these responsibilities fall under N1. The personnel of N1 handle the logistics of the Command of approximately 1,100 civilian, military and contractor personnel to ensure the NAVOCEANO production codes get their jobs done, effectively and efficiently.

## NAVOCEANO News

### Nothing Was Chilly About These Chilis



**N**AVOCEANO Technical Director Charlie Martinek was "fired up" about judging the annual chili cook-off fundraiser for Navy Ball.

Congratulations to the winners Cathy Cooper (best tasting), Mark Null (hottest) and Michael Metzger (most original).

*Mr. Martinek carefully tastes his way down the chili line, assisted by AGC Jason Thompson.*

## For Your Benefit

### Elimination of TSP Open Seasons: 1 July 05

By Cynthia Warner, NAVOCEANO Human Resources

**A** new public law eliminates the open seasons and restrictions on contribution elections tied to open seasons for Thrift Savings Plan (TSP). The Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board will implement this law on 1 July 2005.

The last open season will take place 15 April—30 June 2005. Participants may file contribution elections with their agencies or uniformed services during the open season, and these elections will be processed under the current rules.

However, beginning 1 July, contribution elections will be processed under the new rules: Elections must be made effective no later than the first full pay period after they are filed.

Participants must continue to file contribution elections by using either the automated "EBIS" system at [www.donhr.navy.mil](http://www.donhr.navy.mil) or by telephone at the Benefits Line, 1-888-320-2917, Option 4.

According to the law, agencies and services must continue to implement elections by deducting contributions from participants' pay and reporting these amounts to TSP each pay period.

The law does not affect the waiting

period new employees covered by the Federal Employees' Retirement System (FERS) must serve before they become eligible for agency contributions to their accounts nor the contribution allocations or interfund transfers, which can be made at any time by using the TSP Web site or the Thriftline or by submitting an Investment Allocation form to TSP.

If you choose to start participating in the TSP or increase or decrease the amount you currently contribute to TSP, remember that Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) and CSRS Offset employees can contribute up to 10% of their basic pay. FERS employees can contribute up to 15% of basic pay. The total amount of TSP contributions cannot exceed the IRS annual limit for elective deferrals (\$14,000 for 2005).

TSP can be stopped at any time. TSP contribution increases/decreases are completed by using the automated "EBIS" system at [www.donhr.navy.mil](http://www.donhr.navy.mil), calling the Benefits Line, Option 1 or calling a Customer Service representative at the Benefits Call Center to make these transactions, Option 4.

Employees are reminded that TSP-1s

See **TSP**, page 9.



## Upcoming Events

**Navy Ball meetings** will be held on 4 April and 2 May. Call 688-5195 for details.

N3 and N9 are invited to a **Town Hall Meeting** in the StenniSphere auditorium on 7 April from 1 to 3:00 p.m.

Local Holocaust survivor Felicia Fuksman will speak at the **Days of Remembrance** ceremony on 20 April at 11 a.m. in the Maury Library.

The NAVOCEANO Navy Ball committee will sponsor a **bath and beauty product sale** 20-21 April in the Building 1100 atrium.

The **National Ocean Sciences Bowl** will be held on 22-25 April on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. To volunteer, contact Public Affairs.

30 May is **Memorial Day**, a federal holiday.

## News from NAVICECEN

### National Ice Center Discovers Iceberg Off Larsen Ice Shelf

By LTJG Bryan Wagonseller, Naval Ice Center

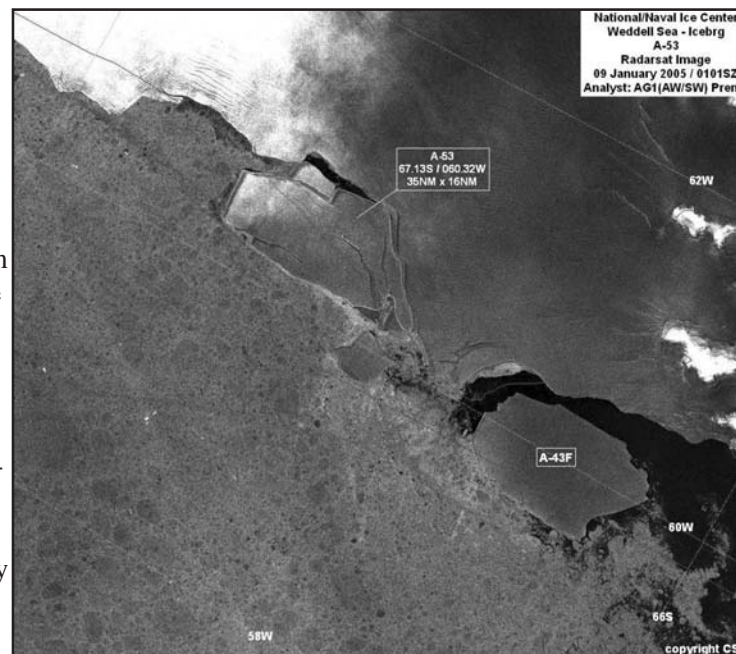
In January, the National Ice Center (NIC) discovered an iceberg newly calved off the Larsen Ice Shelf, a large sheet of glacial ice and snow extending along the eastern portion of the Palmer Peninsula, within the westernmost portion of the Weddell Sea.

The new iceberg, named A-53, is centered around 67.2S 60.5W. It measures 35 nautical miles on its longest axis and 16 nautical miles on its widest axis. (Iceberg names are derived from the Antarctic quadrant in which they were originally sighted. The quadrants are divided counterclockwise in the following manner: A = 0-90W; B = 90W-180; C = 180-90E; D = 90E-0.)

When first sighted, an iceberg's point of origin is documented by the NIC. The letter of the quadrant, along with a sequential number, is assigned to the iceberg. For example, A-53 is sequentially the 53rd iceberg tracked by the NIC in Antarctica between 0-90W (Quadrant A).

AG1 Gary Premo located A-53 using the RADARSAT imagery shown from the Canadian Space Agency. Mr. Paul Seymour, NIC operations technical advisor, confirmed the calving of A-53.

NIC is a triagency operational center represented by the U.S. Navy, NOAA and the U.S. Coast Guard. Its mission is to provide worldwide operational ice analyses for U.S. and Allied Armed Forces, U.S. government agencies and the private sector.



Copyrighted Canadian Space Agency 2005. Image processed at Canadian Data Processing Facility. RADARSAT image of A-53 dated 09 January 2005.

## Employee Excellence

### CNMOC's Mary Jones Awarded MCAFA

In January, CNMOC's Mary Jones was honored the 2004 outstanding civilian employee of the year award by the Mississippi Coast Association of Federal Administrators (MCAFA) during an annual awards banquet held at Keesler Air Force Base.

Jones received this award for demonstrating outstanding civilian service in the federal arena and in the community while employed at NAVOCEANO.

For more than 10 years, Jones has volunteered and organized many educational and charity events including Special Olympics, Maury Morale Toys for Tots Golf Tournament and Celebrate the Gulf.

Formerly NAVOCEANO's Logistics and Management Services Director (N1), Jones reported to CNMOC as the Human Capital Officer in October.

Jones was one of nine South Mississippi nominees up for the award.

The MCAFA event also included organizational awards for support during the

Combined Federal Campaign. NAVOCEANO was recognized and awarded the gold award for per capita donations in the large federal agency/military installation category.

CNMOC received the bronze award in the small federal agency/military installation category.



Mr. Robert Dumont, president of MCAFA, presents Mary Jones with the MCAFA award.

## Around SSC

### Students Win "BIG" at Oratorical Contest

The Stennis Space Center chapter of Blacks in Government (BIG) held their annual student oratorical contest in March.

This year's winner was Chidimma Osigwe of Ben Franklin High School in New Orleans.

In an effort to promote good communication skills needed in the workplace, the competition is designed to give local high school students an opportunity to hone their communication skills while competing for approximately \$700 in scholarships and other prizes.

Ben Franklin High (New Orleans, La.) and Poplarville High participated in the contest.

Osigwe, the winner of the Stennis contest moves on to compete at the regional conference in Atlanta, Ga., in



NAVOCEANO's Lee Chambers and Dr. Robert Carter Jr. present Miss Chidimma Osigwe with her first place trophy. To the right of Miss Osigwe is her father, Basil Osigwe.

May. NAVOCEANO's Ronald Coursey and his family pledged to provide Osigwe's round-trip airfare to the conference.

BIG is a national organization of African-American government workers committed to excellence through equal opportunity. For more information, call 688-4140.

**NSPS**, continued from page 1.

hires, assigns, compensates and rewards employees, while preserving the core merit principles, veterans' preference and important employee protections and benefits of the current system.

The proposed regulations result from a broad-based effort that included input from DOD employees, supervisors, managers, senior leaders, union representatives and public interest groups.

Navy Secretary Gordon England, the DOD's senior executive overseeing the NSPS, and Dan Blair, acting director of OPM, call the publication of the proposed NSPS regulations a critical milestone in the development of this new personnel system that will emphasize performance rather than longevity as it provides more agile, flexible support to DOD's post-Sept. 11 missions.

Blair stated that NSPS will give DOD employees and managers "greater flexibility to accomplish their vital national security mission."

A formal public comment period in that ended in March provided interested parties the opportunity to submit comments and recommendations on the content of the proposal. After the comment period, DOD initiated the statutory meet-and-confer process with employee representatives for 30 days to discuss their views and concerns regarding the proposed regulations and seek common ground. DOD will report the results and outcome of the meet-and-confer period to Congress prior to finalizing the regulations in the spring.

Implementation of the system will begin as early as July 2005, with full implementation in the July 2007/January 2008 timeframe.

DOD employees are encouraged to visit [www.cpms.osd.mil/nsps](http://www.cpms.osd.mil/nsps) to view proposed NSPS regulations and up-to-date information and announcements.

NAVOCEANO is scheduled to implement NSPS in January 2006.

## Safety Matters

### Make Sure Grilling Is Fun and Healthy

Spring time is here, so brush off your barbecue grill and eat healthy with these grilling tips.

- Allow meat to completely thaw in the refrigerator and keep the meat chilled until you are ready to grill it.
- When working with raw meat, wash your hands frequently with soap.
- Avoid cross-contamination. A prime cause of summer food-borne illness is the transfer of bacteria from uncooked to cooked meat.
- Use a meat thermometer. Meat must reach 160 °F before it is safe to serve.
- Dispose of all refuse in a covered bin or trash receptacle.
- Avoid overgrowth of bacteria by storing cooked food in a refrigerator or cooler within two hours of serving.
- Pack leftovers in clean containers.
- When in doubt, throw it out. Food left out for more than two hours has often been contaminated as a result of heat exposure.

- Naval Safety Center SafeTips

**Best**, continued from page 2.

civilian pay system called National Security Personnel System (NSPS). There will no longer be a GS system but a new pay banding system. Promotions will be based on performance rather than longevity. We will have some growing pains with the system, but senior Navy leaders feel the old system has lived its course. Mr. Mike Owens is the point of contact for the new system, and he will issue updates as they become available.

In closing, I would like to thank everyone for your hard work and professionalism. We have some challenges ahead, but I'm sure that together we can get through them. As we move into warmer weather, get our boats back in the water and run around the ball fields, remember to be safe and don't overdo it. Each and every one of you plays a vital role in our mission accomplishment, and we need everyone's experience, attitude and "can-do" spirit. Thank you all, and enjoy our wonderful spring weather!